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Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the past six months pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended in subsequent resolutions, most recently through resolution 1994 (2011).

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the period under review, the ceasefire in the Israel-Syrian Arab Republic sector was maintained and the UNDOF area of operation remained generally quiet. However, during the period anti-Government demonstrations occurred again in several villages in the area of limitation on the Syrian (Bravo) side. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that military forces of either party were excluded from it. UNDOF also carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement. Beyond such routine and temporary restrictions, Observer Group Golan teams continued to encounter restrictions of movement in the southern and central part of the area of limitation on the Bravo side, where Syrian authorities denied access, largely in the vicinities of As Sharajah, Harra, Jaseem, Kanakir, Namir, Nawa and Tasil, ostensibly for reasons of safety and security of the military observers.

3. UNDOF finalized its investigations into the events of 15 May and 5 June, when demonstrations in the UNDOF area of operation commemorating the anniversaries of Al-Nakba and An-Naksa resulted in civilian casualties and put the long-held ceasefire in jeopardy. Both sides cooperated in the investigations. The findings and conclusions of the investigations were in line with the preliminary details on the events that were presented in my previous report on UNDOF (S/2011/359). Following the events of 15 May and 5 June, UNDOF enhanced and strengthened its force protection measures, including through the fortification of its

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positions, to ensure that it had the operational capability to mitigate risks in the future.

4. UNDOF continued to adapt its operational posture to the ongoing Israel Defense Forces (IDF) training activities in the area of limitation on the Alpha side and Syrian civilian development growth in proximity to the ceasefire line in the area of separation. New defensive positions were constructed in the areas of limitation on the Alpha and Bravo sides. Both sides maintained existing defensive positions in the respective areas of limitation. Israeli national customs officials continued to operate periodically at the IDF post at the UNDOF crossing gate between the Israeli-occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

5. The Force continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with the passage of persons through the area of separation. During the past six months, UNDOF assisted in the crossing of 1,071 pilgrims and 392 students and in 8 humanitarian crossings. UNDOF, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, facilitated the release of two Syrian civilians who had been apprehended and detained by IDF on the Alpha side after allegedly crossing the Alpha line. In addition, UNDOF provided medical treatment to 80 civilians.

6. In the area of operation, especially in the vicinity of the ceasefire line in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Owing to the long-term presence of the mines and the deterioration of their detonation systems, the threat has increased. With enhanced mine clearing and detection capacity, UNDOF continued to carry out mine clearance. Coordination with other agencies is continuing in an effort to assist in increasing the level of mine awareness among the civilian population, in particular among children, as well as exploring ways to assist those who have been injured in mine accidents.

7. The UNDOF Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military authorities of Israel and of the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides generally cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

8. In view of the population growth and multiple construction developments in the areas of separation and limitation, the expansion of agricultural and cattle-grazing areas and an overall increase in civilian activities, the UNDOF civil affairs capacity, composed of a Civil Affairs Officer and Observer Group Golan, continued its efforts to liaise with local authorities and engage with local civilians to explain the mission's mandate and activities.

9. As at 11 November 2011, UNDOF comprised 1,043 troops from Austria (380), the Philippines (342), India (192), Croatia (95), Japan (31) and Canada (3). A total of 15 personnel are employed by Japan as a national support element. In addition, 76 military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks.

10. Further to the request in Security Council resolution 1994 (2011), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and UNDOF undertook a joint assessment of the operational capacity of UNDOF, to ensure that the Force was most appropriately configured to fulfil its mandated tasks. The assessment, which has been completed, should be seen in the light of the statement of the President of the Security Council of 5 August 2009 (S/PRST/2009/24), in which the Council stressed the need to regularly assess the strength, mandate and composition of peacekeeping operations with a view to

making the necessary adjustments where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground.

11. The methodology employed for the assessment included an analysis, at the desk level and in the field, of the Force's operational capacity in the light of current and foreseen challenges to the implementation of the UNDOF mandate. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations held expert-level (political and military) briefings for Security Council members and meetings with troop-contributing countries on the assessment. The Governments of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic were informed of the review process. A United Nations Headquarters team visited UNDOF from 16 to 22 October to carry out a joint assessment with the mission of the Force's operational capacity. The conclusions were finalized by the Headquarters team and UNDOF.

12. The assessment team found that UNDOF was adequately configured and appropriately deployed to fulfil its mandated tasks, and concluded that there was no need for structural or operational changes. The assessment did, however, help to identify areas in which adjustments would enhance the mission's capacity to operate and the need to enhance the Force's mobility, observation and communication equipment and infrastructure in order to maintain the required operational and security capacity. In that regard, a rehabilitation programme recently launched by UNDOF to maintain and upgrade Force equipment and infrastructure was fully endorsed in the assessment.

13. UNDOF continues to be up-to-date and thorough in the conduct of contingency planning for various scenarios relating to the operational environment. The assessment team found that UNDOF was making adequate short- and medium-term preparations consistent with United Nations Headquarters policies pertaining to information analysis and the safety and security of personnel and assets.

14. It was also found that, on the whole, both sides have continued to support UNDOF in the implementation of its mandate but that, notwithstanding this cooperation, evolving conditions in the region could have an impact on the functioning of the Force in the medium to long term. The imperative for the parties to uphold the letter and the spirit of the Agreement on Disengagement between Syrian and Israeli Forces of May 1974 and to maintain full support for UNDOF was underscored. Such support should extend to facilitating the delivery of all necessary resources to the mission.

III. Financial aspects

15. The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/302, appropriated the amount of $50.5 million for the maintenance of UNDOF for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Therefore, should the Security Council approve my recommendation set out in paragraph 21 below with respect to the extension of the mandate of UNDOF, the cost of maintaining the Force during the extension period would be limited to the resources approved by the Assembly.

16. As at 9 November 2011, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNDOF amounted to $25.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $3,787.7 million.

17. Reimbursement of troop- and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the periods up to 31 August 2011 and 30 June 2011, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

18. The Security Council, when deciding in its resolution 1994 (2011) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, until 31 December 2011, also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973), and requested me to submit, at the end of the period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, in particular the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973), was dealt with in my report on the situation in the Middle East (A/66/338) submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/17, entitled "Jerusalem", and 65/18, entitled "The Syrian Golan".

V. Observations

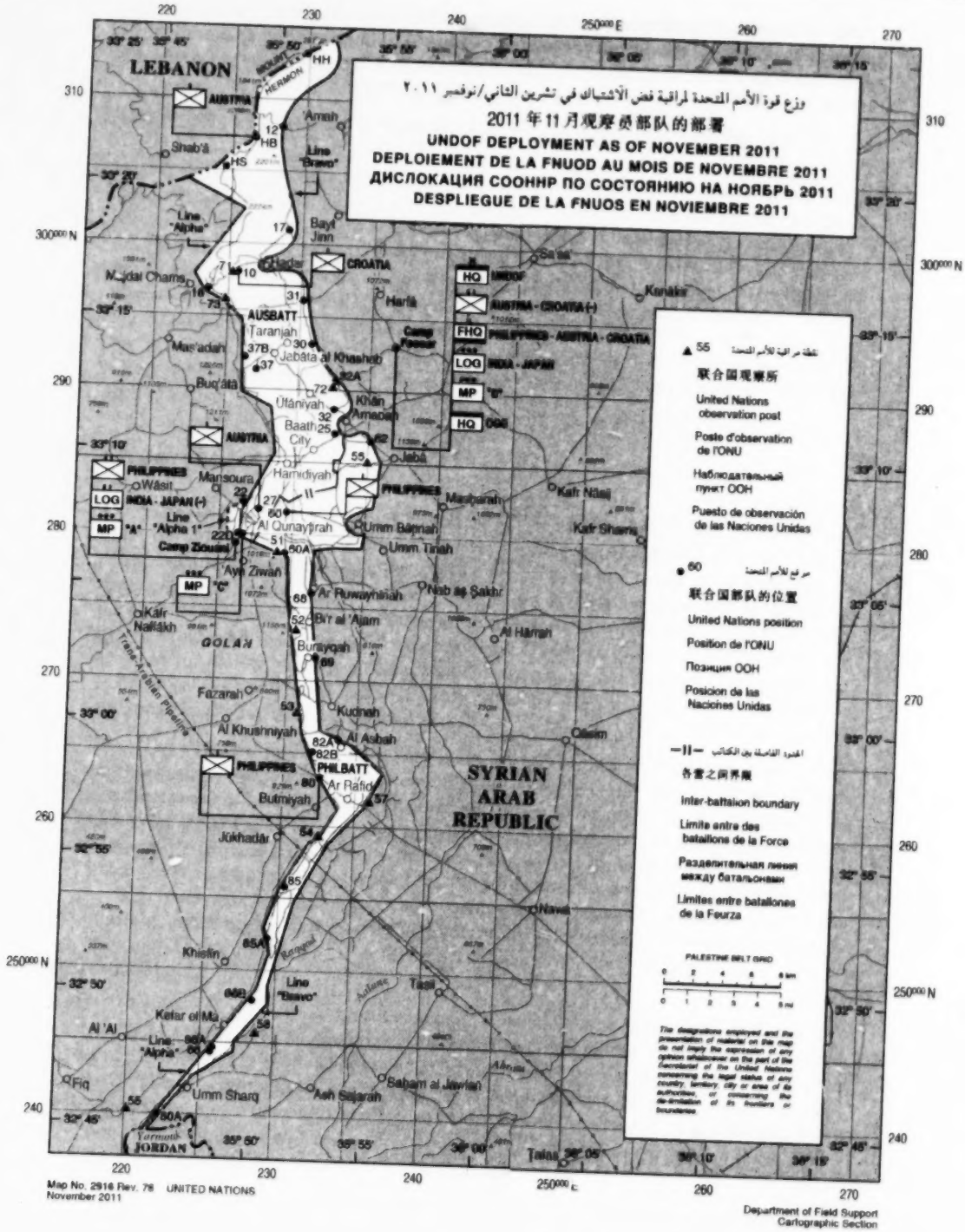
19. The situation in the Israel-Syrian Arab Republic sector remained generally quiet during the reporting period. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its functions, with the cooperation of the parties. However, I am concerned by the continued restrictions of movement on Observer Group Golan teams in the areas of limitation by both parties, particularly on the Bravo side. The unimpeded freedom of movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan is imperative in carrying out the mission's mandated tasks.

20. The situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973). Since the discontinuation in December 2008 of indirect peace talks, there have been no negotiations between the parties. I encourage the parties to resume, as soon as possible, peace negotiations aimed at a comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid Conference terms of reference for peace and relevant Security Council resolutions.

21. Under the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 June 2012. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel also has expressed its agreement. It is hoped that both sides will make efforts to ease the limitations on the mobility of the Force and facilitate the movement of its supplies.

22. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to Major General Natalio Ecarma III and the military and civilian personnel serving with UNDOF and

UNTSO. They have performed with efficiency and commitment the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those which provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر ٢٠١١
2011 年 11 月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF NOVEMBER 2011
DEPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE NOVEMBRE 2011
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА НОЯБРЬ 2011
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN NOVIEMBRE 2011
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
GOLAN
AUSTRIA
CROATIA
PHILIPPINES
AUSBATT
PHILBATT
HQ UNDOF
AUSTRIA - CROATIA (-)
FHQ PHILIPPINES - AUSTRIA - CROATIA
LOG INDIA - JAPAN (-)
MP "A"
MP "B"
MP "C"
HQ GOC
Camp Faouar
Camp Ziouani
Line "Alpha"
Line "Alpha 1"
Line "Bravo"
Trans-Arabian Pipeline
United Nations observation post
Poste d'observation de l'ONU
Наблюдательный пункт ООН
Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations position
Position de l'ONU
Позиция ООН
Posicion de las Naciones Unidas
Inter-battalion boundary
Limite entre des bataillons de la Force
Разделительная линия между батальонами
Limites entre batallones de la Fuerza
联合国观察所
联合国部队的位置
各营之间界限
PALESTINE BELT GRID
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Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section